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Summary record of the 8th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 9 October 1998, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Hachami ..... (Tunisia)

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[*] Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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98-81534 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 101: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/53/3, A/53/371-S/1998/848, A/53/380, A/53/381, A/53/416; A/C.3/53/L.2, L.3 and L.4)

Agenda item 102: International drug control (*continued*) (A/53/3, A/53/72-S/1998/156, A/53/95-S/1998/311, A/53/129-E/1998/58, A/53/204, A/53/371-S/1998/848, A/53/382, A/53/383, A/53/416)

1. **Mr. Matute** (Peru) said that, in the decades that had followed the adoption of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, Peru had had to combat large-scale drug trafficking while waging a simultaneous struggle against terrorism. In the 1990s, the Government's success in eliminating terrorism had finally made it possible to focus on promoting alternatives to coca growing. Creating a rural economy that did not depend on coca production would help to avoid its resurgence. Thus, while in 1990, 120,000 hectares of land in Peru had been devoted to illicit coca growing, that figure had now been halved.

2. Peru's own efforts must be supplemented by international assistance, however, infrastructure and investments, technical support and new facilities were required to combat rural poverty and achieve sustainable natural resource development. Accordingly, a meeting of donors was to be held shortly in Brussels, under the auspices of the Inter-American Development Bank, the Inter-American Commission for Drug Abuse Control and the European Union, to raise additional funds for alternative development and also for prevention and rehabilitation. The possibility of exchanging debt for alternative development programmes was also being explored.

3. It was recognition that all countries had a responsibility to combat drug trafficking that had led to the holding of a special session of the General Assembly in June 1998. The session had adopted a comprehensive, balanced, consensus strategy for tackling all aspects of the international drug problem, including money laundering, judicial cooperation, demand reduction, chemical precursors and alternative development. Peru, for its part, had proposed specific measures for reducing and eliminating illicit coca growing.

4. **Mr. Akplogan** (Benin) noted that, despite action to combat the illicit production and consumption of narcotic drugs, those problems were being exacerbated by economic globalization and liberalization. International trade in narcotic drugs was currently second only to the arms trade.

5. Benin had taken institutional and legal action to combat drug abuse and trafficking. It had established a national drug analysis laboratory; had recently adopted legislation to control drugs and precursors; and had set up a national data bank to collect information on drug abuse and trafficking and to make it available to the competent national and international authorities. Non-governmental organizations in Benin were helping to rehabilitate young addicts, and the United States of America had recently supplied long-distance communication and drug detection equipment to assist Benin's drug control efforts.

6. The importance of international solidarity and shared responsibility in combating the drug problem had emerged clearly from the special session of the General Assembly held in June 1998. The session had also shown that new approaches were needed, and had adopted three basic strategies: supply and demand reduction; strengthening of international cooperation; and increased monitoring of the production, sale and consumption of psychotropic substances and precursors. If States showed the necessary political will to live up to the commitments made at the special session, there was a real prospect of solving the drug problem.

7. **Ms. Gil** (Israel) said that, 10 years previously, her Government had established an Anti-Drug Authority (ADA) to oversee the fight against drug abuse and trafficking. Despite the launching of a network of social, medical, educational, research and enforcement services, however, the problem had grown worse. A new approach had therefore been adopted, aimed at changing the attitudes and lifestyles that encouraged young people to experiment with drugs. Under a master plan for the treatment of children and young people at high risk for drug abuse, teachers were being trained to steer children away from drugs. Information on drugs was also being disseminated within the framework of sports activities and competitions.

8. ADA had also expanded its treatment and rehabilitation programmes and facilities, and a guidance centre had been set up to tackle the problem of occasional users. At the same time, law enforcement had been stepped up. The police and ADA worked together in disseminating and gathering drug-related information. Cooperation between the public and law enforcement authorities was also encouraged. Israel shared the international community's concern about the threat of illicit drugs and was prepared to share its own expertise to help halt the drug epidemic.

9. **Ms. Ahmed** (Sudan) said that the fight against narcotic drugs was a shared international responsibility. Money laundering and the use of the proceeds of drug trafficking for unlawful purposes, such as funding armed rebellions

against legitimate Governments, were a threat to international peace and security and the international community should close ranks against them. Drug use was not a serious problem in the Sudan, but it was a transit country for drug trafficking. Legislation had been enacted in an effort to suppress that traffic.

10. The Sudan was a member of the International Criminal Police Organization and had acceded to the various international instruments dealing with money laundering and also the traffic in human organs. It was working to implement the Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime. Its Criminal Code included provisions for the punishment of crimes against the environment and penalties for corruption and bribery. It looked forward to participating in the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held in Austria in the year 2000.

11. It was regrettable that adequate funding for the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders had not yet been made available, as could be seen from the Secretary-General's report (A/53/381). In view of the potentially useful role that the Institute could play, his Government hoped that adequate financial and human resources would soon be forthcoming.

12. **Mr. Baali** (Algeria) stressed the need to fulfil the commitments made at the recent special session of the General Assembly on the international drug problem, and to establish a genuine international partnership based on shared responsibility and respect for national sovereignty. Algeria had participated actively in the special session and intended to fulfil the commitments that it had made. At the same time, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) must be given adequate resources to carry out their mandates.

13. Organized transnational crime and terrorism were the two most serious threats to States and societies, and were clearly linked. Terrorism was largely financed through trafficking in arms and drugs. The drafting of a convention on the financing of terrorism would be a positive step, but his delegation underscored the need to deal with terrorism comprehensively, by also focusing on the recruitment and training of terrorists. The Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders should look into all forms of terrorism with a view to the drafting of a comprehensive instrument.

14. The Congress should also adopt recommendations to prevent the use of computer networks by terrorist groups, traffickers and major criminals and for advocating violence and hatred. The drafting of an international convention against organized transnational crime would provide an appropriate legal framework for concerted action in that regard. To be effective, such a convention would have to deal with all aspects of the struggle against organized transnational crime and take into account the various legal systems that existed. The establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc committee was a positive step which his delegation hoped would lead to the submission of a satisfactory draft convention in the year 2000.

15. **Mr. Valdivieso** (Colombia) reiterated his Government's strong commitment to joint efforts to combat the global drug problem. That involved tackling the various aspects of the problem. With regard to demand reduction, all countries, especially those where drug use was greatest, should incorporate the guiding principles adopted at the special session of the General Assembly into their national prevention plans. Measures to prevent the diversion of chemical precursors for illegal drug use were crucial. Colombia was taking urgent action in that regard, but the reluctance of some key countries to apply stricter controls had become an obstacle to improved global cooperation. His delegation hoped that the Governments of those countries would assume their responsibilities in that connection.

16. To combat drug-related crime, Colombia's Constitution had been amended to permit the extradition of Colombian nationals, and a new law allowed property obtained with the proceeds of crime to be seized. It was regrettable that the number of States that had adopted legislation against money laundering remained very small. Given the current turbulence of financial markets, which offered increased opportunities for money laundering, his Government urged countries that had not yet done so to join the international effort against such operations.

17. In addition to anti-drug legislation, Colombia attached importance to drug crop eradication, alternative development and achieving a peaceful settlement with insurgent groups. It had an intensive programme of illicit crop spraying and had appealed to financial institutions to support its alternative development programmes for poor farmers in areas of illicit production.

18. **Mr. Jordan Pando** (Bolivia) said that, to deal with the drug problem effectively, a universal response was needed, based on the principle of "shared responsibility" among producer, consumer and transit countries. Bolivia therefore attached great importance to the documents dealing with control of precursors, amphetamine-type stimulants, judicial cooperation, money laundering, demand reduction, alternative development and the eradication of illicit drug

crops, adopted at the special session of the General Assembly.

19. His Government was fully committed to United Nations drug control activities and to regional initiatives such as those carried out within the framework of the Organization of American States. Greater international cooperation was necessary, however. A new international economic system, based on solidarity, was urgently needed, as were new ways of measuring the behaviour of the formal and the informal economy, especially since the illicit informal economy involved not only drugs, but also smuggling and arms trafficking. Given the close relationship between producer, consumer and transit countries, shared responsibility, including shared financial responsibility, was essential. The development resources provided to producer countries such as Bolivia were insufficient, and basic investments were required in order to make legal economic activity profitable. The financial support of developed countries was crucial to the success of producer countries' efforts to reduce supply.

20. His Government was determined to remove Bolivia from the international drug trafficking circuit within the next five years. It was pursuing a comprehensive strategy which included major agreements on the peaceful eradication of illicit and surplus coca leaf cultivation. The various proposals put forward at the United Nations, particularly by the countries most affected by the drug problem, must be followed up. At the special session, Bolivia had proposed the establishment of a consultative group to provide the resources and programmes needed by countries that had adopted specific policies and plans to combat drug trafficking. It had also proposed the holding of donor meetings to support the execution of national anti-drug strategies.

21. **Mr. Young Han Bae** (Republic of Korea) welcomed the recent progress made in United Nations crime prevention and drug control efforts. If the proposed convention against organized transnational crime was to deal effectively with criminal organizations however, it would have to be fully and universally implemented. In that connection, the Centre for International Crime Prevention must be given the necessary operational capabilities to extend technical assistance to all those who needed it. Significant increases in funding were required to develop the Centre into a full-fledged executing agency for technical cooperation in the area of crime prevention. His delegation shared the concern expressed at the precarious financial situation of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. Existing resources should be reallocated to operational capabilities through savings in administrative and conference servicing costs. At the same time, a more focused approach, based on specific, achievable priority goals, should be pursued. The efforts made in that regard by the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention should receive universal support. They should also be matched by action by the Member States. His delegation therefore noted with satisfaction the recent initiatives for strengthening the strategic management of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and welcomed the draft resolution on preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

22. The twentieth special session of the General Assembly had produced a new global strategy for tackling the increasingly complex phenomenon of drug abuse. His delegation commended the balanced approach and spirit of shared responsibility reflected in the various documents adopted at the session. In particular, the action plan on the elimination of illicit narcotic drugs struck at the very core of the drug problem. Time was of the essence, however, and the goal of eliminating or significantly reducing the consumption and production of all illicit narcotic drugs must be achieved by the agreed deadlines. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) should intensify its role as a focal point for follow-up to the special session, but success would ultimately depend on the political and financial commitment of Member States. His Government would continue to play an active part in the collective fight for drug control and crime prevention.

23. **Mr. Bocalandro** (Argentina) said that the special session of the General Assembly had provided a new approach to international cooperation in combating illicit drugs. The role of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in coordinating such cooperation should therefore be strengthened. In that connection, his Government had recently signed an agreement with Spain on increased cooperation in that field.

24. In 1994, Argentina had proposed the drafting of an international convention on organized transnational crime. It was therefore gratifying to note that the process of drafting such a convention had finally begun; it was to be hoped that it would be completed by the end of the year 2000. Preliminary draft articles had recently been drafted at a meeting hosted in Buenos Aires. Although various technical differences would have to be resolved, Argentina believed that an agreement that responded adequately to the extremely complex global circumstances of organized crime would be reached. In conclusion, his delegation underscored the serious nature of international trafficking in women and minors and stressed the need for legislation to prevent and punish that crime.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.